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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

ON EARTH PEACE. . . . NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE.

NEW SERIES.

BOSTON, AUGUST, 1869.

No. 8.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

(Concluded from page 112.)

The French and American Peace Societies have also frequently and continually availed themselves of the papers issued by this Society, and have reproduced them in whole or in part in the publications of the *Paris League*, the *Chicago Herald of Peace*, the *Philadelphia Bond of Peace*, the *Boston Advocate of Peace*, and the *Philadelphia Friends' Review*.

The Committee feel grateful to all the conductors of the public press, both at home and abroad, who have thus, far and wide, so liberally accorded admission to the information from time to time offered them by this Society. But especial acknowledgments are due to some of these gentlemen in particular, who, without solicitation, have exerted their editorial influence, by way of valuable "leading articles," or otherwise, to extend and confirm the public acceptance of the principles of Peace, in addition to the willing insertion of these papers.

EFFORTS ON THE CONTINENT.—Especially in France, in Spain since the revolution there, and the Committee hope by next anniversary "to announce that they have found an open door for the propagation of peace principles in Russia. Stimulated by a generous offer made by a friend in this country, they have been making enquiries as to the practicability of doing so. The answer to these inquiries is, on the whole, encouraging.

Even in Russia,' says one gentleman residing in St. Petersburg, whom they have consulted, 'among the educated classes, many of whom are placed under Western influence, by the extensive circulation, both in the originals and in translations, of foreign works, there are signs of a change of feeling. Views similar to those of the Peace Society are already in the public press of this city, and I may refer more especially to a series of papers which appeared a year or two since in one of them, advocating at great length the reduction of standing armies, and the settlement of international disputes by Courts of Arbitration.' "

EFFORTS CONNECTED WITH ELECTIONS.—It seems our English friends push the peace question right before the people in every general election, especially when so many new voters as last autumn came for the first time to the polls. "Several months before the election the Committee were engaged in preparing means for bringing before the attention, both of candidates and electors and the country generally, those questions of a practical nature relating to peace and war which were likely to attract attention at a time like that; such as the policy of non-intervention, the retrenchment of naval and military expenditures, international reduction of armaments, and the use of arbitration as a means of settling disputes between states instead of the sword. It was felt all the more necessary to do this, as there was a large body of newly-enfranchised voters, principally working men, who are especially interested in these questions, seeing that it is at the expense of their money and blood, more than of any other class, that the war system is maintained. To effect the object they had in view, the Committee prepared a series of pamphlets, tracts, handbills, placards, and short articles relating to the enormous cost of European armaments, the frightful loss of life and treasure involved in former and more recent wars, the reckless extravagance of the naval and military system of our own country; the connection of this waste of the public money with pauperism, depressed trade, and unemployed labor; the admitted

failure of much of this immense outlay, even from a military point of view; the moral and social evils of war, and the practicability of avoiding such awful sacrifices of life, property, and morality, by the adoption of a more Christian policy in the conduct of our diplomacy and in the settlement of international disputes.

These papers were widely diffused throughout the kingdom by various agencies. One hundred and sixty thousand copies were issued direct from the London office alone, or distributed in packets to parliamentary candidates, the chairmen of election committees, and other influential persons. The efforts made by many of the friends of the cause in diffusing these papers, deserve grateful recognition. The Committee cannot conceal the great pleasure they felt in the cordial co-operation of the leaders of the working-men in London, as represented in the Reform League and other bodies, who, with the utmost readiness and earnestness, lent their aid in the circulation of the Society's papers, and in otherwise using the large influence they possessed with their own class throughout the country in favor of the principles and policy of peace. The newspaper press, also, gave its powerful help, by the reproduction in many instances of the whole, and in others of considerable portions, of the publications issued by the Society, backed, in some cases, by approving editorial comments; thus giving to the views advocated a very wide publicity at a moment when they were likely to make a special impression on the national mind.

That these efforts were not without marked results was evident enough from the tone of many addresses delivered by candidates and others during the election, in which very unusual prominence was given to the topics suggested in the papers that had been thus circulated, ample use being often made of the facts and statistics they embodied, while occasionally there were open and cordial acknowledgments of the value of the Society's services. The Committee cannot deny themselves the satisfaction of citing one example of this from the speech of a gentleman who is indeed an old friend of the cause of peace—the Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson. In a speech delivered at Ashton-under-Lyne, he said :—"He believed the day would come when the world would see that the Peace Society had done great service, because, by spreading information throughout England and Europe, it was assisting to form a public opinion in favor of a new policy, namely, to put down those excessive naval and military armaments which were not supported by the voice of the people of Europe, but were, in fact, due simply to the military class having acquired, in nearly all the governments of Europe, an undue ascendancy."

EFFORTS ABROAD.—Besides a respectful notice of what we are doing in this country, the report says :—"In France there are two or three associations at work to the same end. The most important of these is the International League of Peace already adverted to, whose able and indefatigable founder and Secretary, M. Frederic Passy, has been engaged during the past year, with undaunted energy and courage, in promulgating his views, not only in his own country, but also in Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy. The works published by this society are of great value, and will in process of time constitute a real 'Library of Peace.' There are many signs abroad that the world is becoming weary of war. In proportion as education and intelligence spread among the masses of the people, do they rebel against its stupendous folly, its gross injustice, its hideous cruelties, its oppressive costliness, and the manifold

hardships and miseries it inflicts on mankind. The working-men especially, who have been hitherto used as mere counters in this bloody game of kings, are beginning to feel and assert their own manhood. In an International Congress of working-men held last autumn at Brussels, the cry most loudly raised was 'War against War;' and if the working-men of the various countries of Europe resolutely refuse to fight, the end of war cannot be far distant."

HOW WAR BEGINS.—War often begins like the quarrels of children. I recollect well when the great boys used to set the little ones to fighting, that they might enjoy the fun. It was necessary only to put a chip on one boy's head, and dare the other to knock it off. No sooner said than off goes the chip, and down comes the blow; and now the little heroes maul each other and pull hair, to the great delight of all mischief-loving spectators. — *Ladd*.

THE WAR-SYSTEM.

This term is quite familiar; but precisely what does it mean? It is a bold, defiant denial of what is commonly understood as mutual justice between men in their dealings with each other. Every nation, civilized or savage, has always had its laws, written or unwritten, to define the rights and duties of its citizens, and provisions of some sort to put those laws in force. Civil government, in this general sense, has ever been found, the world over, indispensable for the well-being and the very existence of society. Yet the brotherhood of nations have never in 6000 years made similar provisions for securing either justice or safety in their intercourse with each other. They have never once attempted in earnest to create a common Legislature which should enact laws imperatively binding on them all, a common Court or Judiciary to interpret and apply such laws, and an Executive to put them properly in force. There has hitherto been nothing like this; and hence the chief excuse for the war-system, a species of national duelling, under which every nation claims the right to decide for itself, and musters all its powers for the enforcement of what it chooses to call its rights, acting in its own case throughout as lawgiver, accuser, witness, judge and executioner.

Such has been essentially the War-System in every age and clime; nor has Christendom itself, with all its light and culture, done more than render this system increasingly effective in the work of mutual mischief and destruction. Its principle remains the same, the principle of sheer brute force, a huge and terrible barbarism kept up by nations reputedly Christian at an expense of treasure, blood and moral power that well-nigh defies belief or conception. In Europe alone it now requires for its support even in peace some four or more millions of picked men in the fullest vigor of life, nearly doubled in time of war, and expends in arms and other war materials, in fortifications and arsenals, in war-ships and iron-clads, in labor lost to productive industry, in interest on some \$12,000,000,000 or more of war-debts, and nameless other ways, not less, it has been carefully computed, than \$2,000,000,000 every year.

If we include this Western Continent, the estimate must be deemed quite moderate.

Such, then, is the custom, the War-System, which the cause of Peace seeks to do away. Such is its sole aim; just this, and nothing else. With the internal affairs of the governments themselves, in their dealing with their own subjects, it has nothing to do. It does not say what laws shall be enacted, nor with what penalties enforced. It does not inquire how theft or robbery, murder or piracy, insurrection or rebellion shall be punished. All such matters it leaves to each government, and merely urges that the governments themselves shall devise some means of settling their disputes and regulating their intercourse without war. With the abandonment, the entire extinction of their War-System, its whole specific work will have been done.

LACK OF THOUGHT ON PEACE.

We must own our great regret and surprise at the lack of thought on the question of Peace even by men well-informed on most subjects. We wish this lack were confined to a few; but we meet it at every turn, and in quarters where we ought least to expect it.

We are reminded of this lack just now by reading in several newspapers editorial notices of our cause or its organ that were doubtless meant in all kindness and respect, but which betray a strange lack of acquaintance with the subject. We wish we could regard these cases as exceptions, but fear they indicate a general ignorance on the subject even among good and otherwise intelligent men. How many Christians have yet examined this subject with any such care or interest as it deserves? Has one in ten or fifty? How many editors of secular or religious journals have done so? How many of our forty or fifty thousand preachers have done so? We think that none of them can before God justify the continued neglect of a subject so eminently Christian, and so vastly important.

We must protest that this lack cannot be our own fault. We certainly have given line upon line. We have furnished ample means of information on the subject. We have brought and kept it in many ways before the community. They might, had they chosen, have long ago become sufficiently acquainted with the subject for all practical purposes. God grant that this strange, inexcusable ignorance and apathy may not long continue. Will not at least Editors, Preachers and Teachers look at this subject with care in the light of the Gospel, and of the pregnant facts and arguments which show its wide and manifold bearings on the world's highest welfare?

THE NEW AND BETTER WAY.

Among the questions looming up in the future, that of arbitration as a substitute for war is destined to hold a foremost place. In looking over the continent of Europe, the prospect does not appear promising; we hear of many garrisoned towns in which the soldiers outnumber the people. But the magnitude of the evil is preparing the way for its own overthrow. The people everywhere are crushed by an incubus which is yearly becoming more oppressive. The German emigration